(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-449/99]

(ii)(a) Forty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-450/99]

Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (1997-98) of the Department of Telecommunications

संचार मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): सभापति महोदय,मैं आपकी अनुमति से दूरसंचार विभाग के 31.3.98 तक की स्थिति के अनुसार 1997-98 के वर्ष के लिए लाभ और हानि लेखा तथा तुलन-पत्र के एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ। [पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी। देखिए स.एल. टी. 453/99]

Report and Accounts (1998-99) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi and Related Papers

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the y«ar 1998-99, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT- 605/99]

I. Report and Accounts (1997-98) of the Airports Authority of India and Related Papers

II. Reports (1998-99) of the Commission of Railway Safty, Lucknow.

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री शरद यादव): सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति सभा पटल पर रखता हूं :-

I. भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण अधिनियम, 1994 की धारा 28 की उपधारा (4) के अधीन निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में:-

(क) 1997-98 के वर्ष के लिए भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण का तीसरा वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन और लेखें, लेखाओं पर लेखापरीक्षक के प्रतिवेदन सहित।

(ख) उपयुक्त प्रतिवेदन को स्वीकार करते हुए सरकार द्वारा विवरण।

(ग) उपर (1) में उल्लिखित पत्रों को सभा पटल पर रखने में हुए विलंब के कारणों को दर्शाने वाला विवरण ।

II. 1998-99 के वर्ष के लिए अधिनियम, 1989 की धारा 10 के अधिन रेल सुरक्षा आयोग, लखनऊ के वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) [पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी । देखिए स. एल.टी. 594/99]

MR.CHAIRMAN : Mr. V. Dhananjay Kumar, before you lay the papers mentioned against your name in todays' List of Business, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee wo.ild like to say something.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to page 63, Item IV, in todays' Order Paper-- G.S.R. 99 (E) dated 11.2.99. My objection is that the Parliament was in session after 11.2.99. Then why was this notification not laid on the Table of the House when the Parliament met after that? The whole purpose of laying it on the Table of the House is to enable the Members of Parliament to know what notifications are being issued. These are the notifications where certain items are being exempted from Customs duties. If you look at the notification, you will find that a large number of second hand computer items were exempted from the payment of total

Custom duty as a result of this notification. Now, if it was laid on the Table of the House at the appropriate time, some of the Members would have picked it up and sought clarifications from the Government as to why they had done it. What was the rationale behind it? But the notification was issued, on 11.2.99; it is being laid on the Table of the House in the month of November. The cause of action has already arisen and it has become some sort *of a fait accompli.* Therefore, I would like the Minister to instruct the Department to take note of it. Perhaps, the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table can also examine it. Secondly, we will welcome the exemption given to the bus passengers coming from Bangladesh. But that was a part of the international agreement and the whole House welcomed it. But the technical point which remains is that these notifications have to be laid on the Table of the House at the earliest opportunity. The Parliament met after 11.2.99, after 22nd March, 1999 and that was the appropriate time to lay it on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : Sir, the point is noted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No,no. You have to give reasons for the delay. Why were these notifications not laid on the Table of the House in time?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the point is well taken. I will certainly look into the reasons for the delay in not putting this paper before the Parliament. I will certainly find out as to why this paper was not laid on the Table of the House when the Parliament was in session and we will come back to the House with the desired information.

MR.CHAIRMAN : All right.

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Sir, I lay on the Table : -

1. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Economic Affairs (Banking